

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief Lowell M. Porter*

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## Office of the State Fire Marshal

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**May 19, 2004**

**For Immediate Release**

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### Designing and Installing a Firewise Landscape

Is your landscape surrounding your home or vacation property safe from the threat of a wildland fire? We never know where or when a wildland fire will strike next, but you plan ahead and install a firewise landscape.

You should consider the following when designing and installing a firewise landscape:

- What is the area's fire history?
- Site location and overall terrain.
- What are the patterns of the prevailing winds and seasonal weather?
- What are the contours and boundaries of your property?
- What type of native vegetation is around and on your property?

To create a firewise landscape, you must remember that the primary goal is fuel reduction. Divide your landscape plan into four zones, with zone one being the closet to your structure.

Zone 1 – This well-irrigated area encircles the structure for at least 30 feet on all sides, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency. Plantings should be limited to carefully spaced, low flammability plants.

Zone 2 – Low flammability plant materials should be used here. Plants should be low-growing, and the irrigation system should extend into this section.

Zone 3 – Place low-growing plants and well-spaced trees in this area, remembering to keep the volume of the vegetation low. The more vegetation, the more fuel a wildland fire can burn.

Zone 4 – This is the furthest zone from the structure and is a natural area. Selectively prune and thin all plants and remove highly flammable vegetation.

Remember a little pre-planning can result in huge benefits if a wildland fire should strike close. For more information on the Web, visit the Firewise home page at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

For additional fire safety tips, visit the Washington State Patrol – Office of the State Fire Marshal Web page at <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/firemars.htm> or contact your local fire department.

*The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State, including inspections of state-licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.*

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